

Agency: University of Alaska**Project Title:**

Kenai Peninsula College Pre-corrections Officer Orientation and Preparation Training

State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000
One-Time Need

House District: 35 - R

Brief Project Description:

The \$50,000 will be used as seed money for the collaboration of the Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College and the Department of Corrections to develop the curriculum and the infrastructure necessary to institute a Pre-corrections Officer Training Program.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$50,000

Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Department of Corrections has a very difficult time recruiting and retaining corrections officers. This request is based upon the statewide need for corrections officers and a lack of college-level training programs in Alaska. The creation of the curriculum of a Pre-corrections Officer Training Program will develop a pool of applicants for correction officers, jail house operators, and dispatcher positions in small communities.

The Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, has been working towards developing a program that could reach rural communities via distance education and/or classroom work. The educational program will assist in strengthening the infrastructure of rural Alaska while increasing the number of applicants for Public Safety careers, both within the Department of Public Safety and the private sector.

The Director of Kenai Peninsula College has been working with Homer Deputy Chief of Police Randy Rosencrans, Kenai Probation Office Probation Supervisor Ruben Foster, Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Dwayne Peeples and his staff to begin framing the curriculum for a Pre-corrections Officer Training Program.

The Pre-corrections Officer Training Program needs seed money in the amount of \$50,000 to develop the curriculum and the infrastructure necessary to institute a pilot program. After the development stage the program will be self-sustaining through tuition and support from the college. Without the seed money this project will lack the funding to be instituted.

Training residents of rural communities for a career in Public Safety, staffing community jails, and dispatch centers will provide valuable career opportunities for rural residents. This program is especially important to support workforce development and meet the training needs of this high demand field.

Project Timeline:

It will take 6-12 months to have a complete occupational certificate program up and running.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Kenai Peninsula College, Kachemak Bay Branch

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Gary Turner, College Director, Kenai Peninsula College

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Soldotna, AK 99669

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Katie Shows

From: Gary Turner [jingjt@uaa.alaska.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 9:08 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Katie Shows; 'Carol Swartz'
Subject: Pre-Corrections Training Pilot Project
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Seaton,

At your request, Kenai Peninsula College has discussed with Dwayne Peebles, deputy commissioner for the Department of Corrections, and his staff, the need for a pre-Corrections Officer training program. Based upon the statewide need for corrections officers and lack of a college-level training program in Alaska, we will utilize the \$50,000 appropriation, as well as needed in-kind college support to create and run a pilot project for such a program for one year.

Since meeting with Mr. Peebles on Jan. 30 in Juneau, Carol Swartz and I have since exchanged emails with his chief of training, Kevin Brew, and will have a teleconference with him at 7 am, Wed., March 12, to further discuss and define the curriculum options for such a program. Randy Rosencrans, Homer deputy chief of police, and Ruben Foster, probation supervisor, Kenai Probation Office, presently serve as adjunct faculty at KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus and Kenai River Campus respectively. They have extensive justice and criminology backgrounds and are both excellent instructors. Carol and I have been discussing this pilot program with them extensively and have already begun framing the curriculum for such a program. Both Randi and Ruben will join us in the Wednesday teleconference. It is our goal to provide such a program via distance delivery so it can be provided throughout Alaska.

We appreciate your support in providing such funding to support workforce development and meeting the training needs of this high demand career field. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at 262-0315.

Gary J. Turner
College Director
Kenai Peninsula College

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3/19/2008